



November 2008

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DOUBLE DOZEN



Fall Conference Contest Winners!!!

Congratulations to all the contestants at the Fall District Contests!

Taking home the trophies were:

Evaluation:
 1st place Jeanne Schieffer, NPPD
 2nd place Diana Liska, Greater Communicators

Humorous:
 1st place Colleen Bozarth, Blue Ah-Busters
 2nd place Jolene Boshart, Fairview



Division 24 Awards!!!

A number of people were nominated this year for the Officer and Club of the Year Awards. District 24 is filled with outstanding talent, and this year we recognized the following team members:

Club President	Kim Spicka, Club Fed
Club Vice President – Education	Brad Finch, Road Toasters
Club Vice President – Marketing	Melinda Campbell – The Good Neighbor Club
Club Public Relations Officer	Sheri Wells-Chesley – Small-Talkers
Club Secretary	Kady Agena, The Finishers
Club Treasurer	Randy Prier, River City Toastmasters
Club Sergeant at Arms	Barb Gay, NPPD
Ann Gold Club of the Year	Blue Ah-Busters
Area Governor of the Year	Louis Lester, OPPD, Area 41
Division Governor of the Year	Garry Martin, Firstier Club, Division C
Toastmaster of the Year	JoAnn McClelland, Blue Ah-Busters
Toastmaster of the Decade	Mark Hjelle, Revellers

Special thanks to IPDG, Chris Czerwinski for heading up our nomination review committee.



Mark Hjelle, TM of the Decade





Change is in the air...This change has been building, and we are beginning to see the benefits across District 24.

Governor's Quill

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Change is in the air. It is not the falling leaving, brisk cold wind, or recent elections. This change has been building, and we are beginning to see the benefits across District 24.

Let's begin with clubs. There are three new clubs in the district. West Dodgers chartered in June 2008 and are moving forward with being a very strong club in Division D. According to all reports, their meetings are fun and filled with great members. I have had the privilege of visiting West Dodgers, and I have seen them in action during the fall contest season. How many brand new clubs step into competition so readily?

Werner Trucking "On Time Delivery" meets with a full house each week. They, too, continue to see visitors in their meetings and are growing into another very strong team.

But, most recently, Con Agra Foods joined the District 24 Toastmasters family. Mentors, sponsors, and membership are in place, and they are a powerful group, as well. I had the pleasure of visiting the demos and the two first meetings. The ice breakers were powerful and heartfelt. All I can say is "WOW!"

There are two clubs on the horizon. The Advanced Omaha Club meets once a month on the 2nd Monday at Perkins, 108th and L Street, Omaha at 6 p.m. Dinner is on your own, and this group needs 6 more members to charter. If you are interested in getting more detailed evaluations and would like to give longer speeches than your club can accommodate, check out the Advanced Club.

The Covenant Presbyterian

Church is meeting each Thursday at 7 p.m., and they hope to charter soon, as well. Contact Pat at governor@district24toastmasters.com about the Omaha Advanced Club or Bonner at tribee@excite.com about the Covenant Presbyterian Church Club. You need not be a member of the church or faith to join this club.

That is not the only change in the air in District 24. Since the beginning of the Toastmasters year, we have had 2 "World Champions of Public Speaking" visits. Both David Brooks and Darren LaCroix came and helped us reach out and share mission of Toastmasters to be a communication and leadership organization that supports our members. We are working on a possible 3rd Champion to come next year to continue this trend.

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Education Time

Elden Plettner, Lt. Governor—Education and Training

The first chance to attend the 2nd round of TLI training is coming your way December 6th. Club Fed is hosting the event in Omaha.

This is not going to be your average officer training session. While we are still in the planning stages, some of the things that you can look forward to include a boot camp on how to serve as a club mentor, sponsor, or coach. We have a number of new clubs on the horizon, but we need members trained to help nurture and grow these seedlings into mighty oaks that will last in District 24 and perhaps even sprout more clubs. You'll also have the option to attend judge's training and learn more about having a successful club contest.

The TLI will be divided into three tracks, and you will be able select the options that best suit your needs. Perhaps you are a long time member who has served as a club officer for many years and want to earn your AL-Silver. The "boot camp" for mentors, sponsors, and coaches might just be the right sessions for you. Perhaps this is the first time you have served as a VP of Education. Check out the judge's training and the club contest sessions.

We plan to offer a number of opportunities and sessions that, not only serve the officer team, but also the members who might be interested in attending.

If shopping or holiday events keep you from attending on December 6th, check the district calendar for additional dates and times for TLI training. This will be a great networking opportunity as well as a chance to network.



Marketing Minutes

George Volz, Lt. Governor—Marketing

We are in need of some leaders.

Wait—are you trying to tell me you are not a leader? I am not buying that. You made the choice to come to this meeting; you make decisions everyday that affect your family, community, business, even the world. Whether you want to be or not, you are a leader. The real question is what kind of leader are you?

Some of you may be leaders because you were hired, elected, appointed, or committed to be the leader. Some of you are leaders because no one else wanted the job. Many of you, I think, are leaders because others want to follow you.

When you boil it down, there

really are only two types of leaders those others want to follow and those they don't. It doesn't make a difference whether you are in a position of leadership or not. People follow leaders that are really leaders.

The vision for District 24 is Service-Centered Leadership. What is Service Centered Leadership? None of the examples I demonstrated would qualify. To put it simply, a service centered leader is one who FOCUSES the team on the goal and the NEEDS of those working to achieve this goal.

The 2 key words were focus and needs.

Focus is the ability to see clearly the dream and to be

able to translate to this to others. Focus helps to understand what moves us forward and understand what might distract us from our goal - a commitment to the goals of the team, a commitment to those on the team, and a commitment to be in service to all. Distractions happen to me everyday. I start out with solid plans on what I am going to accomplish, I have every minute planned exactly, and then I get out of bed. But even distractions can be of use. The challenge is to understand which ones move us toward our goals and which ones are trying to derail.

As a leader, we need to learn how to rely on ourselves and our team to keep us moving forward. As a service-

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“A service-centered leader is one who FOCUSES the team on the goal and the NEEDS of those working to achieve this goal.”

A Two-for-One Opportunity

Louis Lester, Division E Governor

All of the clubs in Toastmasters are unique with their own chemistry, styles, quirks, formats, strengths, and weaknesses. I saw this last year as an Area Governor and see it now as a Division Governor. I wouldn't have it any other way. The club is YOU or at least a combination of YOUs. The club, therefore, should be unique as its members as they find what works best for them.

Having visited many clubs now (and, yes, I am still working on visiting as many of the Division E clubs as I can), I have seen things that certain clubs do better than others. Whether they would work best in other clubs is still unknown, but the problem is I think they might but other clubs only know what they are doing or have tried. We need to learn from each other.

Another problem is that there are clubs that have speaker availability problems. The low membership clubs have problems getting a speaker or at least multiple speakers to fill a meeting. The high membership clubs have problems providing enough speaker slots to have all their members speak on a regular basis and have member achieve their goals.

A third problem is all clubs suffer from some degree of familiarity where the speaker is getting evaluated by the same group of people. The speaker is familiar and comfortable with the audience and, therefore, is not as challenged as they should be. The evaluations tend to be repetitive and start to "expect" certain habits or mistakes from a speaker and don't challenge the speaker to improve like they should.

The solution seems too obvious. We need to have members from the high membership clubs

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If your members establish personal Toastmasters goals, and you have an engaged group of officers, the Distinguished Club Program will fall into place.

Success is all about helping the individuals; that makes a club grow.

Right Place, Right Time

Louis Lester, Division E Governor, 2007-2008 Area 41 Governor

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Right Place, Right Time?”

I have to admit that Area 41 is a strong area with some excellent clubs. My goal going in as a new area governor was to build on that momentum. Like all new Area Governors, I was a little lost and had a big learning curve. Visiting the Toastmasters International web site helped gather the information that I needed about each club's health. I visited each club at least 4 times, and a few of them more than that, which helped me understand how each one “ticked” and how different each of them is. I really don’t know how much I inspired them or even helped them, but I hope I did to some degree. One thing I kept telling the clubs, and I keep telling clubs today as a Division E Governor, is concentrate on your club members’ goals and not the club goals. I believe that leads to success for a club. If your members establish personal Toastmasters goals, and you have an engaged group of officers, the Distinguished Club Program will fall into place. Success is all about helping the individuals; that makes a club grow.

So, looking back what was the things that I was most proud of in Area 41 last year:

1. New members! New members! New members! Let me say that again. NEW MEMBERS. Each of the five clubs had 7 or more new members last year. Mutual Of Omaha had 15!!! This brought in new energy, excitement, ideas, and set them up for even better things down the road.
2. Great club officers that made my job easy by keeping their clubs on track and moving forward.
3. Set high goals. I would not have thought that out of 5 clubs in Area 41 three would reach Presidential Distinguished and another Select Distinguished. Physicians Mutual had NEVER reached Presidential before, but they did it last year, and they only meet twice a month. Let me repeat that. They only meet twice a month and got to Presidential. Mutual of Omaha was amazing with 15 new members propelling them to achieve the Smedley Award and the Select Distinguished Award, which were their FIRST ribbons EVER!! Omaha 229 and OPPD went into the year with the attitude of what else would we going for other than Presidential. So, of course, they both achieved it.
4. It takes a team. Great support from the clubs at contests and participation of the club members increased networking and helped create great area contests.
5. Great club environment and chemistry is a hallmark of each of the Area 41 clubs. Each had a fun and friendly club environment that is key to any successful club.

In particular, I would like to personally thank the terrific club presidents that I had the opportunity to work with last year: Patsy Meyer – Omaha 229; Rhonda Reuter – Mutual of Omaha; Terry Lee – Tower Talkers; Pat Hannan – OPPD; and Tom Garvey – Physicians Mutual.

Thank you Area 41 for a great experience last year. As Division E Governor this year, I am glad to continue to get a chance to work with the clubs in Area 41 along with many other. Thanks again for the nomination and award.



For all of the latest information regarding upcoming events, dates, times, and locations, please check out the District 24 Calendar at:

<http://www.district24toastmasters.com/calendar.cfm>



A Two-for-One Opportunity (continued from page 3)

Louis Lester, Division E Governor

visit the low membership clubs. What am I proposing?

We have low membership clubs around District that having an occasional guest speaker or even non-speaking guest would make a tremendous difference to them by:

1. Having better meetings.
2. Providing "new-ness" to the meetings improving atmosphere and attitude.
3. It gives them additional reasons to invite other guests to see the "special" speaker visiting.
4. It gives them a chance to see other speakers and styles.
5. It gives them feedback from their guests to help them find new ideas to improve.

But it is not a one-way thing. For those willing to volunteer to attend other clubs as speakers or just to visit, they will get the following:

1. See how other clubs operate and take back ideas to their clubs.
2. Meet and become friends with new people.
3. Get more opportunities to achieve your goals.
4. Get new feedback by having a different audience evaluate your speeches.
5. Grow by going outside your comfort zone you have in your regular club.
6. Feel good about helping other clubs who would be very appreciative of it.

It is a win-win situation. How many people do we need? How often would you need to do this?

Actually, if we had even a dozen clubs that offered up just one volunteer a month from their club, I think it would make a huge difference to the district by helping the smaller clubs and by helping those volunteers grow and achieve their goals. Of course, the more the better as schedule and distances will certainly also limit us on matching volunteers to the clubs that need help.

In District 24, we have around 20 clubs with 20 or more members. 6 of those clubs have at or above 30 members. We also have around 20 clubs with low membership.

Can we find people from the large clubs to help the smaller clubs???

I am suggesting a challenge. I am challenging you to step up and visit other clubs and contribute to other clubs. To support this effort, I'm willing to help coordinate requests for guest speakers from other clubs or those willing to visit other clubs. Just e-mail me at: DivEGovernor@district24toastmasters.com. I will try to collect the names of potential participants and see

Communication and Leadership Award Winner

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

At this year's fall district conference in Grand Island, Dan Naranjo was presented with the District 24 Toastmasters Communication and Leadership Award. This award is presented to a non-Toastmaster who has demonstrated outstanding communication and leadership skills in the District 24 community.

Dan was nominated by Anita Lewandowski as a community leader worthy of this award. He has served in many volunteer and board of director roles, and, while Dan earns his living as the owner of the All Faiths Funeral Home in Grand Island, he is so much more than that. He is a visionary and activist in community development activities in the Grand Island area. He is just as comfortable serving chili as a fundraiser as he is speaking in front of the city council. He is a man with great passion, heart and leadership.

Congratulations to Dan!



*I am challenging
you to step up
and visit other
clubs and
contribute to
other clubs.*



Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is Coming!

The second round of Toastmasters Leadership Institute training is right around the corner on **Saturday, December 6, 2008**. The event is open to all Toastmasters and clubs who send 4 or more officers will receive credit towards the Distinguished Success Program.

Attendees will be able to select from these offerings:

Session Choice/ Title	“Bootcamp” for District Success	Club Success	Contest Success
Session 1	Leadership. Home/Work/ Club/District and more.	Moments of Truth*	Judge’s Training
Session 2	Sponsoring & Mentoring New Clubs	Charting a Course for Club Success*	Successful Contests
Session 3	Coaching Existing Clubs	Speech Craft	High Performance Leadership

Agenda:

- 8:30 a.m. Networking and Sign-In
- 9:00 a.m. Opening remarks by trio members
- 9:20 a.m. Session 1 – select any of the three offerings
- 10:00 a.m. 10 minute break
- 10:10 a.m. Session 2 – select any of the three offerings
- 10:50 a.m. 10 minute break
- 11:00 a.m. Session 3 – select any of the three offerings

The TLI will be hosted by Division D and Club Fed at the Bank of the West. The final agenda is subject to adjustment. We hope to see you at TLI!

Out and About—Best of Sarpy Business Expo 2008

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

You just never know where Toastmasters will turn up! On Thursday November 13 at the La Vista Conference Center, 108th and Giles Road, La Vista, several District 24 Toastmasters will be involved in the Best of Sarpy Business Expo 2008.

- Diane Sullivan, Area Governor, will present: Organize Your Workspace and Workload
- David DeFord, Area Governor, will present: Using LinkedIN to Network Online
- Sarpy County Chamber is hosting the event and they have a Toastmasters Club

A copy of the expo form is online at: <http://www.sarpychamber.org/events/2008ExpoRegistrationForm.pdf>.



David DeFord, Area Governor



Notes from the District 24 Fall Conference

George Volz, Lt. Governor—Marketing

As the conference winds down, I want to take just a couple of moments on a very essential issue. Leadership.

Over the past several weeks, the economy has been adversely affected; we have heard all kinds of negative rhetoric about the quality of those wanting to lead the country and those in leadership of our country and businesses. All-in-all, it boils down to leadership. In times like this, we need better leaders.

For Toastmasters, this should be a call to action. While the world is crying in their beer about how bad things are, we have the tools to make a very positive difference. When resources are limited, we need to grow to use the resources we have more effectively than ever before.

Our goal this year is to practice Service-Centered Leadership. Do we understand the commitment? Do we understand what it means to provide Service-Centered Leadership?

I would like to offer that it is also Servant-Centered.

Why?? I am sure that you have gone to a restaurant and received excellent service—and possibly gone to a restaurant and received terrible service. Both times you were served, but there was a difference. Which did you prefer? Which would you recommend to others?

Servant-based leadership is the defining difference. Servant-based leadership puts those being served as the focus of everything done. Would you agree? What are some aspects of Service/Servant Centered Leadership?

1. Committed
2. Patient
3. Humble
4. Respectful
5. Honest
6. Forgiving
7. Kind
8. Selfless

What tools are available to help us?

1. Competent Leader
2. Leadership Excellence
3. HPL

Where can one practice?

The Conference showed a lot of great leadership. As we go back (and for those were unfortunately could not attend), we can again practice leadership in our home clubs. Step forward and make every meeting a success by making everyone at the meeting successful. Or reach out to the world outside the club.

Darren LaCroix asked the clubs in the district to practice reaching outside by scheduling one member to deliver a speech outside the club each month. If we make the commitment to take this step, the benefit to all would be great. He reminded us that we are all experts in some field, and we need to share our expertise. If nothing else, we should share about how being a Toastmaster has helped us grow. Darren recommended using a speech format of Then-Now-How. In the “Then” part, tell a little about how we were. In the “Now” part, let others know where we are now, and then follow with “How” Toastmasters has helped us.

Our goal this year is to practice Service-Centered Leadership. Do we understand the commitment? Do we understand what it means to provide Service-Centered Leadership?



Stage Time, Stage Time, State Time

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

A visit from a “World Champion of Public Speaking” is a welcome treat to any Toastmasters event. District 24 just had the honor of such a treat. Darren LaCroix, the “2001 World Champion of Public Speaking” arrived on a Wednesday afternoon and spread the good news about Toastmasters across District 24 through Saturday afternoon.

His visits included three clubs: Werner Trucking, Omaha; PayPal, Omaha; and Principal Insurance, Grand Island. He was on both television and radio, featured in a number of newspapers, and held open events at the newly

forming club at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 150th and Blondo, Omaha, as well as at Southeast Community College in Lincoln.

Our heartfelt thank you to Darren for spending so much time in District 24 and to the many Toastmasters who helped make the visit so very successful.

Additionally, the trio would like to express our thanks to PayPal and the many Toastmasters who have helped support the educational fund for District 24 that underwrote the costs of the visit.



George Madsen Wins!

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

The wind might be blowing, and snow might be falling, but George Madsen will be able to stay warm this year with his new quilt. The quilt, "Cold Winter Noses", was pieced by Pat Hannan and quilted by Floy Westermeier. George purchased the winning raffle ticket at the fall conference in Grand Island.



George Madsen holds up his new quilt, along with Pat Hannan, District Governor, and Floy Westermeier

Proceeds from the quilt raffle are added to the district educational fund to be used to support the extra events that are used to benefit the membership. More than \$450 was raised through the silent auction and the quilt raffle.

A third quilt raffle is planned for the spring conference. Raffle tickets will be available beginning Dec. 6 at the Toastmasters Leadership Institute being held at Bank of the West in Omaha.

Star City Club Needs Your Help!

Over time, some clubs lose momentum and need a helping hand. Can you help Star City?

Roe Enchayan is looking for experienced Toastmasters to help fill in the slots on Saturday mornings from 9:45–11:15 a.m., Madonna Rehabilitation Center, Lincoln. This club is one of the oldest clubs in the district but has been struggling to grow new members. They have an active membership campaign underway now but need your help.

Please contact Roe at renchayan@yahoo.com for additional information.



Governor's Quill (continued from page 2)

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Change is also in the air related to leadership. District 24's second round of Toastmasters Leadership Institutes will offer up a variety of learning opportunities. The TLIs will kick off on December 6th in Omaha. If you are a veteran officer or new to the role, there will be something of value for you! The idea from the "ramped up" TLI actually came from feedback from a long time Toastmaster in Lincoln that wanted something more from training. If you like the new format for the second round of training, let Gene Deyoe know!

I'd like to finish off my note to each of you this month with a word of thanks. November is a time of thanksgiving and reflection for many. I have a great deal to be thankful for: my friends, my family, and each of you. Toastmasters are supportive, encouraging, and good listeners. We learn and grow together. We are a passionate team, and, while occasionally that causes a few misunderstandings, I am grateful to each and every member of District 24 for their kindness and support.

Wishing each of you a season filled with warmth and friendship,
Pat

Winners of the Visitor Night Competition

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

At the Fall Conference, a drawing was held to reward two of the many clubs that celebrated the September Visitor's night. The lucky clubs were Division C Area 24 Club 1800 - Capitol Voices and Division D Area 31 Club 651085 - Club Fed. Both clubs will receive a \$50.00 voucher to shop at the District Bookstore redeemable at the TLI's and District Conference.

All of the clubs that participated were winners. Some of the clubs had a single night; others had a special session for visitors at every meeting they held in September. The special meetings brought in visitors, which led to new members, and new members are the lifeblood of our clubs. (I know - you had heard that it was giving book speeches was the life blood—book speeches are important, too.) New members keep our clubs dynamic and growing. New members replace those who move on.

To all of the clubs that had a special night, keep up the good work!

Stories from the District 24 Conference

George Madsen

In earlier years, I traveled for Valmont Industries and was the first employee of Valmont International. One key country where I visited frequently was Saudi Arabia. On one trip to Saudi Arabia, I had a consultant traveling with me who spoke Arabic. (I speak no foreign languages). The American consultant lived in Kuwait City, Kuwait. Our assignment in Saudi Arabia ended suddenly, so we hastily arranged our departure flights from Riyadh to Beirut, Lebanon. He would continue to Kuwait City, and I to London.

Our flight to Beirut was via Middle East Airlines, notoriously noted for their pilots' reputation of having flunked kamikaze flight training. We landed in Beirut, only to learn the airport was shut down. The city was AT WAR!

The plane on which we had been traveling continued to Kuwait. My colleague LEFT ME!

THERE I WAS, STRANDED in the Beirut airport with a WAR going on outside the airport terminal!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!



"I believe that to be a leader, you have to earn respect of others. You have to show a passion to succeed beyond anyone else. You need to have a commitment to the goals your group has set.

Leadership

Garry Martin, Division Governor of the Year, 2007-2008

I was asked to write a companion article on leadership with the posting of the Division Governor of the Year award. I would like to say that nothing in leadership is easy. Below I will offer some of my views on leadership.

I believe that to be a leader, you have to earn respect of others. You have to show a passion to succeed beyond anyone else. You need to have a commitment to the goals your group has set. Meeting goals and doing powerful things does not come about by one person. I know that for a fact. The things which were accomplished during my 2

years as Division Governor came from dedicated leaders in each club, the great work of my area governors, and thru the assistance of the District leadership of Toastmasters (either those currently in office or those which have served in the past).

I believe leadership is attainable for everyone, and Toastmasters provides a great avenue to develop each of our skills. If your word is true, you have consistent character along with a caring concern to help others, you have great leadership potential.

To be a leader, you have to be a doer. I urge everyone in Toastmasters to take

advantage of the leadership tract. I would like to see more persons take the challenge of being an officer in their club and in the District. It will help you as a person, in the community, in your work, and it enhances the organization of Toastmasters.

This award isn't so much my award, but the award of each individual person in Toastmasters who has contributed to the betterment of this organization. I thank you for this honor, which was unexpected. I urge each of you to consider the challenge of leadership in this organization and step forward for the excellence we all pursue.

Marketing Minutes (continued from page 3)

George Volz, Lt. Governor—Marketing

centered leader, commitment is the foundation.

That brings me to the second key word—Needs. Note that I said “needs” not “wants.” There will always be wants—sometimes we call them temptations. Needs are those important factors that are necessary to move the team forward to the goal. When working with a team, the needs of the team are the vital components that keep the team moving forward.

I need to stop right now and make a point. The goal of the service centered leader can be greater than what one individual can accomplish—the results can only be accomplished by a team. If the interest of the person is in only what they can accomplish on their own, they will not enjoy the success that a team under the guidance of a service-centered leader.

Where do we need leaders? In our homes, communities, clubs, in our world!!

Do you want to improve as a leader? District 24 has many opportunities. On December 6th, we will be gathering to focus on building our leadership skills. Leaders, plan to attend.



Happy Thanksgiving from your District Trio:

Pat Hannan
Elden Plettner
George Volz

